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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products
March 2017

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary March steel imports were $2.4 billion (3.1 million metric tons) compared to the preliminary February totals of $1.9 billion (2.4 million metric tons).

The March change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected increases primarily in blooms, billets and slabs; reinforcing bars; and oil country goods. Decreases occurred in pipe for piling. Increases occurred primarily with Brazil, Russia, and Turkey. Decreases occurred primarily with Taiwan, South Africa, and Sweden.

The year to date final statistics through February 2017 showed steel imports of 5 million metric tons compared with 4.5 million metric tons through February 2016. The largest commodity increases occurred primarily in blooms, billets and slabs; oil country goods; and cold rolled sheets. Decreases occurred primarily in hot rolled sheets, plates cut lengths, and plates in coils. The largest country increases occurred primarily with Russia, Brazil and Taiwan. Decreases occurred primarily with Australia, Germany, and China.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details, visit our web site at www.census.gov/trade. On the website, you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is May 23, 2017.